AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1   1.   (Currently Amended): A method for ~~creating~~ a supplier rating ~~matrix for rating services~~
2   ~~of a supplier, the method~~ comprising:
3   defining an initial supplier rating matrix;
4   defining a first job attribute vector, the first job attribute vector including a set of sub-
5   attributes, the set of sub-attributes including at least one of a plurality of ranges of tolerance
6   values, a plurality of ranges of quantity values, and a plurality of ranges of times;
7   defining a first performance vector, the first performance vector including ~~a plurality of~~ a
8   set of performance metrics;
9   defining a first ~~supplier-rating~~ matrix;
10   calculating a first matrix based on at least the first filter constant, the first performance
11   vector, ~~defining a first filter constant, wherein the first filter constant is value between 0 and 1;~~
12   ~~calculating a first term, the first term being a product of at least the first filter constant,~~
13   ~~the first performance vector,~~ and the first job attribute vector;
14   calculating a second matrix ~~term~~, the second matrix ~~term being a product of~~ based on at
15   least 1- the first filter constant and the ~~first supplier rating~~ initial matrix;
16   ~~adding the first term to the second term, wherein a second supplier rating matrix is~~
17   ~~created;~~
18   ~~calculating a first weighted average from each element of the second supplier rating~~
19   ~~matrix, wherein the first weighted average is a first supplier rating score.~~
20   generating a feedback matrix by adding the first matrix to the second matrix;
21   calculating a plurality of performance ratings each corresponding to a metric from the set
22   of metrics from the feedback matrix; and
23   calculating a final rating value in response to the plurality of performance ratings wherein
24   the final rating is displayed to the customer through an interface in order to asses a supplier.

1   2.   Cancelled.

1   Claim 3-5 (Previously Canceled)

1   6.   (Previously Amended): The method of claim 1, the set of sub-attributes is defined using
2   a technical requirements specification of a customer of a supplier.

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1   Claim 7-8 (Previously Canceled)

1   9.   (Previously Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the set of performance metrics

2   includes at least one of speed, quality, cost and service.

1   Claim 10-18 (Previously Canceled):

1   19.   (Currently Amended): An article of manufacture having computer-readable program

2   means for creating a supplier rating ~~matrix~~ for rating services of a supplier, the article

3   comprising:

4   computer-readable program means for defining a first job attribute vector, the first job

5   attribute vector including a set of sub-attributes, the set of sub-attributes including at least one of

6   a plurality of ranges of tolerance values, a plurality of ranges of quantity values, and a plurality

7   of ranges of times;

8   computer-readable program means for defining a first performance vector, the first

9   performance vector including a set of performance metrics;

10   computer-readable program means for defining a<u>n</u> ~~first supplier~~ <u>initial</u> rating matrix;

11   computer-readable program means for defining a first filter constant, wherein the first

12   filter constant is value between 0 and 1;

13   computer-readable program means for calculating a first <u>matrix</u> ~~term~~, the first <u>matrix</u>

14   ~~term being a product of~~ <u>based on</u> at least 1- the first filter constant and the ~~first supplier~~ <u>initial</u>

15   rating matrix;

16   computer-readable program means for calculating a second <u>matrix</u> ~~term~~, the second

17   <u>matrix</u> ~~term being a product~~ <u>based on</u> at least the first filter constant, the first performance

18   vector, and the first job attribute vector;

19   computer-readable program means for adding the first<u>matrix</u> ~~term~~ to the second <u>matrix</u>

20   ~~term~~, wherein ~~a second supplier rating~~ <u>a feedback</u> matrix is created;

21   <u>computer-readable program means for calculating a plurality of performance ratings each</u>

22   <u>corresponding to a metric from the set of metrics</u> from the feedback matrix; and

23   computer-readable program means for calculating a ~~first weighted average from each~~

24   ~~element of the second supplier rating matrix, wherein the first weighted average is a first supplier~~

25   ~~rating score.~~ <u>a final rating value in response to the plurality of performance ratings wherein the</u>

26   <u>final rating is displayed to the customer through an interface in order to asses a supplier.</u>

1   20.   Cancelled.

1   21.   (Previously Added): The article of claim 19, wherein the set of sub-attributes is defined

2   using a technical requirements specification of a customer of a supplier.

1   22.   (Previously Added): The method of claim 19 wherein the set of performance metrics

2   includes at least one of speed, quality, cost and service.

1   23.   (Currently Amended): A system for creating a supplier rating ~~matrix~~ for rating services

2   of a supplier, the system including a CPU and a program stored in a computer readable medium

3   configured to execute a set of interface modules, the system comprising:

4   an interface module adapted to define a first job attribute vector, the first job attribute

5   vector including a set of sub-attributes, the set of sub-attributes including at least one of a

6   plurality of ranges of tolerance values, a plurality of ranges of quantity values, and a plurality of

7   ranges of times;

8   an interface module adapted to define a first performance vector, the first performance

9   vector including a set of performance metrics;

10   an interface module adapted to define ~~a first supplier rating~~ an initial supplier rating

11   matrix;

12   an interface module adapted to define a first filter constant, wherein the first filter

13   constant is value between 0 and 1;

14   an interface module adapted to calculate a first matrix ~~term~~, the first matrix ~~term being a~~

15   ~~product of~~ based on at least 1- the first filter constant and the ~~first supplier~~ initial rating matrix;

16   an interface module adapted to calculate a second ~~term~~ matrix, the second matrix ~~being a~~

17   ~~product of~~ based on at least the first filter constant, the first performance vector and the first job

18   attribute vector;

19   an interface module adapted to add the first ~~term~~ matrix to the second ~~term~~ matrix,

20   wherein a ~~second supplier rating~~ feedback matrix is created;

21   an interface module adapted to calculate a plurality of performance ratings each

22   corresponding to a metric from the set of metrics from the feedback matrix; and

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24   an interface module adapted to calculate a ~~first weighted average from each element of~~

25   ~~the second supplier rating matrix, wherein the first weighted average is a first supplier rating~~

26   ~~score.~~ final rating value in response to the plurality of performance ratings wherein the final

27   rating is displayed to the customer through an interface in order to asses a supplier.

1   24.   Cancelled.

1   25.   (Previously Added): The system of claim 23, wherein the set of sub-attributes is defined

2   using a technical requirements specification of a customer of a supplier.

1   26.   (Previously Added): The system of claim 23 wherein the set of performance metrics

2   includes at least one of speed, quality, cost and service.

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